

Dear Members of Labor and Public Employees Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Karime Pimentel. I am Lead Organizer for the Naugatuck Valley Project and a leader for Recovery for All. I live in Waterbury, Connecticut. I support Senate Bill No. 1178: An Act Expanding Connecticut Paid Sick Days.

I spend my days talking to domestic workers. They are your nannies, your house cleaners, your personal care attendants, and babysitters. I myself was a nanny, a house cleaner, and a housekeeper in the past.

We are hard workers. Yet, we have, historically, been left out of coverage by many of the basic labor laws legislated in Connecticut and throughout the United States. We were left out of coverage when Connecticut's paid sick days law was passed. I must acknowledge that there are thousands of other workers besides domestic workers that are not covered by Connecticut's paid sick day law that should also be covered.

We understand our own history, the history of domestic work in Connecticut. We know that we were not just forgotten when labor protections have been passed for other workers. We know that we were not important, that protections for ourselves and our families didn't matter. We were always "less than", second class.

We are not willing to be overlooked any more. We are here today to push for paid sick day coverage for all of Connecticut's workers, including domestic workers.

Honorable representatives and senators, paid sick days are important to us and to our families, our children and other family members.

We also ask that you change workers' eligibility for sick days in the current sick day law from 680 hours to the very first day on the job. Quite honestly, when we are sick, the pandemic has taught us that we should not be at work for our own sake, but also for the sake of those that we might accidentally infect.

I hope Labor Committee members and Connecticut lawmakers will vote favorably this year to strengthen and expand eligibility for sick day coverage to Connecticut's domestic workers.

Thank you for your time,

Karime Pimentel

216 Wolcott sT.

Waterbury, CT 06705